



Commercial Mushroom Producers

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NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2011

EU COMMISSION AUDIT (23RD – 27TH MAY)

Ireland has been selected by the EU Commission as one of the countries for auditing in 2011. Whilst the audit is on the Department of Agriculture as the responsible body for administering the PO scheme in Ireland, it is likely that CMP will be visited as part of the audit process as the biggest PO in Ireland. This will be the most important event in the history of CMP and an extremely important week. We will not know the result of the audit for 3-4 months after the audit, as we wait for a report.

ON FARM INVESTMENT 2011

This year, CMP must prepare a tender document for each item of investment. We are preparing these tenders now and will be in touch with growers who have expressed an interest in On farm investment in 2011. We are expected to get up to 5 companies tendering for each item of investment. We must then evaluate expressions of interest and score the tenders, indicating our reason for selecting a particular company to supply equipment.

Because of the audit mentioned above, CMP will be unable to approve any investments until the result of the audit is known. We will continue to get our tendering procedure organised and would expect to approve work quickly, should we have a satisfactory audit.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

GROWER/MANAGER TRAINING – HENK VAN GERWEN

For personal reasons, Henk is unable to commit to training in Ireland in April as planned. We are looking at another option for May/June and will give as much notice as possible so that people you may want trained are not on holidays.

DISEASE CONTROL OPERATIVES – HELEN GROGAN

Dates: Monday 4th April

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan

Time: 2.00pm – 5.00pm – (starting sharply at 2.00pm)

So far these workshops have been very well attended, and very well received by growers who have found them extremely useful. This is the final one in this series. As stated in the last Newsletter, **all people looking after disease and whose cost is funded in our Operational Programme** must attend at one half day training workshop. CMP has made a commitment to DAF to train all personnel responsible for this task.

TRAIN THE TRAINER

Due to staff changes on units, there is a growing demand to run another course in 'Train the Trainer'. About 10 people are required to run a successful 2 day course. Please contact Tom to book staff onto this course. Date and venue will be decided based on expressions of interest.

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Following requests from growers for additional technical support, the executive have decided to retain the services of Brendan Burns and Martin Doyle to assist growers. Brendan will be available to growers 2 days per week and Martin 3 days per week from the beginning of May. Visits will be coordinated by Tom Kellegher.

FORECASTING ASSIST FOR GROWERS

A pilot programme for forecasting mushroom production has been introduced to the brown growers. If this proves useful and successful, it will be made available to all growers.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

CMP have been in touch with growers re summer compost fills. You will be notified shortly of the agreed programme. Brown growers have already been notified.

MUSHROOM PACKING AT NEWGROVE

Our packhouse is now in full production with one of three prepacking lines now fully operational. We have a Tesco visit on the 6th April, after which we hope to be approved as a Tesco packhouse.

AREA MEETINGS

Three area meetings are planned as follows:

11th April – Horse & Jockey, Tipperary

13th April – Kilmore Hotel, Cavan

Each meeting will begin at 4.00pm sharp.